

for the last time. I am proud to share that my honoree today is my 100th great Federal employee, a talented individual who spent two decades reducing trade barriers for American goods.

Michelle O'Neill has served as Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade since 2005. In this role, Michelle supervises the day-to-day operations of the International Trade Administration, or ITA. The ITA has over 2,400 employees and an operating budget of over \$400 million. Its mission is to promote American exports and ensure fair access to overseas markets for our businesses.

Michelle, who holds a bachelor's degree from Sweet Briar College in Virginia and a master's degree from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, first came to the Department of Commerce in 1983 as an intern. Over the course of her career, she has served under 5 administrations and 11 Secretaries of Commerce. She has traveled to over 40 countries to carry out her work.

From a family with a long history of public service, Michelle knew very early that she wanted to pursue a career in government. Born on a military base, Michelle has said that "public service is part of my DNA; I have always found helping others, being part of something bigger than myself, to be very rewarding." Throughout her career at the ITA, she has done just that—helping Americans trade fairly across borders and pursue commerce, which has always been a vehicle for achieving the American dream. Michelle has consistently placed her work above her own advancement and taken risks for the sake of carrying out the ITA's core mission.

Michelle served overseas from 1995 to 1998 as the commercial attache to our mission to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD. Before that assignment, she worked as executive assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary for International Trade—the position Michelle now holds. In 1995, she served as a Brookings legislative fellow with the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade in the House of Representatives and from 1990 to 1991 was detailed to the Office of Policy Development in the White House.

One of her major achievements at the ITA has been resolving a major China market access barrier, for which she won the Department's Silver Medal. She also has been praised for her role in developing an online portal for government export assistance, called export.gov. Michelle was also awarded the William A. Jump Award for exemplary service in public administration. This June, she was honored as Outstanding Woman of the Year by the Association of Women in International Trade.

Today, Michelle is part of the ITA's leadership team. The American people are fortunate to have her talents and experience at work for them. She joins

the 99 other outstanding public servants whom I have honored weekly throughout my term. Together, they are my 100 great Federal employees—not that these are all the great employees, but I think you see a mosaic which represents all of our Federal employees.

I hope to come to the floor next week to speak about a special group of outstanding Federal employees, but this week's honoree, Michelle O'Neill, is the final individual whose story I will share in this series. I hope my colleagues in the Senate and all Americans will join me in thanking her and all those who work at the International Trade Administration for their service to our Nation. They are all truly great Federal employees.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant editor of the Daily Digest proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, on August 5, 2010, I was presented with the flag of the United States Public Health Service by the Commissioned Officers Association, COA, of the U.S. Public Health Service, PHS, and its affiliated PHS Commissioned Officers Foundation. The Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is one of our Nation's seven uniformed services. When the COA was kind enough to present me with their Health Leader of the Year Award several weeks ago, it was noted that, while I had the flags of the five armed services displayed in my office on Capitol Hill, there was no PHS flag to complete the display.

The first thing I noticed when presented with the PHS flag was its color—a bright yellow field with dark blue crest and inscription. The PHS flag reveals the history of our Nation's Public Health Service. The Public Health Service traces its origins to 1798 with the passage of an "Act for the Relief of Sick and Disabled Seamen." The economic survival of our young country was almost totally dependent on maritime commerce and this law was aimed at protecting the health of merchant seaman, without whose labors the young nation would not long survive, much less prosper.

Medical quarantine of ships found to be carriers of disease was an essential

tool in protecting the commercial interests of the United States. The PHS flag is the same yellow color as the maritime "quebec" signal flag which is the international signal for a ship under quarantine.

Emblazoned on the yellow field of the PHS flag is a crossed "fouled" anchor and caduceus. The fouled anchor—an anchor wrapped by its chain and thus unusable—is the symbol of a ship or sailor in distress. Interestingly, the caduceus in the PHS crest is the mark of Hermes, the Greek god of commerce—later the Roman god Mercury—and consists of a staff with two entwined serpents. The caduceus, emblem of commerce, is often confused with the ancient Greek Rod of Asclepius—a staff entwined by a single serpent—which represents the healing arts.

So the crest of the Public Health Service signifies the importance of protecting the Nation's commercial interests by ensuring we have a healthy workforce. This is as critical to the United States today as it was in 1798—and we are faced in the 21st century with perhaps more threats to the health of our workforce than ever before.

Leadership in the protection of our Nation's public health originates within the Public Health Service whose origins can be traced to that 1798 law passed by Congress. And leadership within the Public Health Service is embodied by the Office of the Surgeon General and the officers of the PHS Commissioned Corps. These uniformed health professionals are essential defenders of our national security which is dependent on a healthy population—the bedrock upon which is built our commerce and our national defense.

We all owe these PHS Commissioned Corps officers our support for their often unheralded efforts in protecting and promoting the Nation's security. I am proud to honor their service by displaying the PHS flag in my personal office on Capitol Hill.

DEFENSE TRADE COOPERATION TREATIES

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the Defense Trade Cooperation Treaties with the U.K. and Australia and their implementing legislation. These treaties would exempt these two countries—two of our most important allies—from our arms export licensing regime.

Though I am confident our allies will use these treaties as intended, I am very concerned that these treaties may make it easier for arms dealers to divert weapons to illicit purposes. The Government Accountability Office has reported that diversion of weapons from the United States, including through the U.K. and Australia, is a major source of weapons for countries of concern to the U.S., including Iran. It has also documented how arms smugglers have relied on previous licensing exemption regimes as a cover